



**Multi-Modal Transportation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2013
3:00-4:30 PM
First Floor Conference Room
City Hall**

Attending:

Commission Members: Bruce Emory, Jim Grode, Julie Mayfield, Terri March, Bob Roepnack, Don Kostelec, Till Dohse.

Absent: Lael Gray, Kristy Carter, as not voting members; and Mary Weber, Marcia Bromberg, Itiyopiya Ewart

Staff Members: Cathy Ball, Roderick Simmons, Mariate Echeverry, Martha McGlohon, Blake Esselstyn, Ken Putnam, Pet Wall, Stephanie Monson, Barb Mee, Janet GeorgeMurr, Alvin Fuller.

Community Members: David Allen Wilson, Sasha Vrtunski, Rich Lee, Alan Steinbeck and Dan Hardy of Renaissance Planning Group.

•Jim Grode welcomed everyone to MMTC Meeting and requested introductions of commission members, staff and public.

•December 4, 2013 Agenda Jim announced of a landfill tour. MMTC approved the agenda as modified.

•September 25, 2013 Minutes Bruce motioned to approve the minutes, Julie seconded and carried unanimously.

Announcements:

•Chairman Grode announced that Duncan McPherson Chair of SACEE (Sustainability Advisory Commission on Energy and the Environment) inviting MMTC on Friday, November 8 from 12-1pm on a tour of the landfill. Chairman Grode will send email of tour announcement to everyone on MMTC.

New Business:

●**East of the Riverway Transportation Network Presentation of by Dan Hardy and Alan Steinbeck of Renaissance Planning Group:** Presented a PowerPoint that will be previewed at the public meeting Thursday, October 24.

Before the presentation began, Mariate stated that:

♦This project is one part of the Tiger Grant that the City received of several projects that are being developed to include Clingman Forest and Town Branch Greenways and development of the River front.

♦The Renaissance Planning Group team began working this particular project before the MMTC was established but they have already paths established and a public meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and b/c MMTC has not seen this project it would be appropriate for MMTC to review and provide comments that will be incorporated in the Plan.

Highlights of the Presentation:

♦Location – between French Broad River and McDowell there is 1,110 acres; diverse range of residential, institutional and industrial properties; and River Arts District.

♦Plan Vision – improve livability and public health; through fiscally responsible multimodal initiatives that will connect community physically and culturally; enhance commerce; and catalyze desired development. While valuing existing neighborhoods and enhancing access to education and job opportunities for a diverse range of local residents.

◆Gathering good ideas and adding to the map either from the public.

◆This is the first multi-modal plan for Asheville.

◆Policy – tactical urbanism – that the community willing to participate in the grassroots involvement and matching that energy with the City good rules and responsibilities to encourage it but not be overtaken by it.

◆An overview of the existing land use and change development in the next 5 to 10 years that would be occurring in this area as far as development and needs and how the transportation plan satisfies the people who are there today and the people anticipate coming in the future. Two scenarios were reviewed:

- a. Trend line development – taking into account the events in the area in the past decade that a pattern of built on available buildings, adaptive reuse of low level investment in terms of infrastructure and new buildings.
- b. Strategic Change – there is a lot of area in this district including by the river that has great development potential but there are issues and challenges to make the development ready. Whether it is public investment, environmental remediation, public-private partnerships different levels of investment considered strategic.
- c. Also exploring the type of land policies that support walkable mix-use development; and multi-modal transportation behavior and transportation networks in the plan. Basic recommendations: to look at the zoning code; to look at land development practices and to maximize the inclusion of multi-modal facilities to deal with parking in various specific ways.
- d. Land use policy on housing which there is a lot of affordable housing and there are strategies to deal of all kinds to single family to multi-family to public-private to non-profit types of models that need to be considered in this area.
- e. Access to goods and services and jobs is also a focus. Looked at people getting to and from places on foot, bicycles and within the localized area having a complete set of neighborhood services.
- f. The New Belgium Brewer site is included in the area which is critical part of making the River Arts District success; also the RADTIP project and the 5-Points.
- g. Gathering all of the good ideas that are going on in the area and adding to those that things that we have heard from the community.
- h. Cathy stated that since this project was before MMTC was established but is requesting MMTC to review thoroughly and be able to give input, and that MMTC understand it, support it so that that this plan is in the alignment with MMTC endorsement or approval.
- i. Dan stated if process and schedule are both important and wanted to give MMTC the heads up on what is happening. We expect a lot of feedback tonight and to work with the City staff in terms of the schedule and to get back with MMTC and work with Mariate and Barb.
- j. Mariate suggested that since we have several projects going on in this area, Stephanie Monson of Economic Development wanted some coordination in the efforts that different commissions are doing and the proposal is to have a subcommittee of MMTC to be able to work with Riverfront Commission with implementation and the recommendations of these plans. Jim and Bruce suggested having this item on the next month agenda.
- k. For a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation–please email Janet at jgeorgemurr@ashevillenc.gov.

●**Transit Master Plan (TMP) on Sunday Service and proposal** – Julie stated that the proposal (attached) is from the Transit Committee to be reviewed by MMTC.

1. Julie gave a brief history of how the TMP has been implemented.
2. Councilman Gordon Smith asked the staff to put together a list of funding priorities for transit and to take the steps toward implementing the TMP in pulling together the full recommendations from the TMP which is broken into operational/capital costs and marketing and fare changes.
3. The first priority is Sunday Service with two options of full or limited Sunday Service. The TC endorsed the limited Sunday service as a first step which would be the same as the holiday service.
4. Councilman Smith would like to bring to the Council Retreat in January, 2014, the following recommendation to be included in the next budget year:
 - a. Limited Sunday Service;

- b. Funding for marketing; and
 - c. For Council to begin the conversation of thinking for every subsequent year to make one improvement to the TMP in a significant way.
5. Mariate stated that at the last Transit Committee Meeting, Bruce proposed in having a marketing person for multi-modal transportation rather than for Transit only. This will be more aligned with the path of the City.
 6. After Mariate identified other areas of options that is explained on the TMP alternatives, a lengthy group discussion among MMTC and staff
 9. Cathy suggested preparing a final draft of recommendations from MMTC for December meeting.

● **MMTC Monthly Scheduling Conflict:** Jim will defer this agenda item to January, 2014, due to several MMTC members who are absent. Jim reminded everyone that the November and December meetings will be combined and rescheduled on 12/4/13 in HR Training Room from 3-4:30pm.

● **Update from 9/25/13 I-26 Asheville Connector Workshop:**

1. Convened by DOT to discuss multi-modal aspects of the I-26 Asheville Connector to meet with the City of multi-modal advocates.
2. Jim, Julie, Don and Bruce attended along with City staff to get ideas and thoughts for I-26.
3. Jim stated that DOT was open to multi-modal ideas.
4. Bruce stated that it was refreshing that DOT proposed some specific solutions: alternative 3 which is the one that keeps the I-240 traffic on the existing bridge and expressed a willingness to add to facilitate to the bridge that would be off to one side and suspense underneath to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclist to get across the bridge.
5. Julie stated that DOT pointed out several potential problems as was discovered that the Amboy Rd might be overbuilt and there wasn't a provision for bikes or pedestrians in that stretch.
6. The next step on this is for a small group to get back with Cathy B, Marc or Jan to discuss what came out of the meeting particularly the Amboy Rd section. Marc and Jan would like to have a memo that summarizes the recommendations that came out of the workshop and whether Council adopts or put in a letter to DOT. Just so there is a concrete recording of what the City is asking DOT to consider as it moves forward.
7. Jim stated that one of the major things that came up at the workshop arose out of the need or the desire to have multi-modal pathways along the corridor and we talked about that in depth and Roderick presentation now is the proposed solution or the next step in trying to get it implementing.

● **City of Asheville Greenway Master Plan Proposal (GMP) (in the context of the I-26 Connector):**

Roderick gave a brief overview of the history of the GMP when it was adopted in 2009. Roderick showed maps of the prioritizing which greenways to focus on first. After a group discussion, Julie moved to approve the updated greenway maps subject to the MMTC provisions, Don and Bruce second and carried unanimously.

● **Update on By-Laws and Rules of Procedure:** Jim stated that the subcommittee will connect with Martha and will have available at the December meeting.

● **Transit and Greenway Committee Members term limits:** Martha stated if the term expires on the committee then the member would expire on the commission. If the terms on MMTC does not match up with the terms on committee, suggested changing the term on the committee because Council has appointment the commission members and the committees are not appointed by Council.

OLD BUSINESS

● **Update on RFP of MMT Plan reviewed by MMTC** – Mariate's goal is to have RFP completed out by the end of next week.

1. Cathy recommended that when the RFP is in draft form, to have members of the MMTC to review the proposal as well as the Bike/Pad, Greenway and Transit Committee in their professional capacity.

2. Martha stated that members of the commission are able to submit proposals for RFPs and to recuse themselves from voting on any issues associated with that plan.
3. Julie stated that we will know far in enough in advance about when the RFP opportunities are coming up and Don and whoever will determine if they would or would not bid on and will know in advance whether to be on the RFP committee. Martha stated that this sound feasible and will look into further.
4. Jim stated that there is an existing provision in the By-Laws but may need to be updated.

● **Charlotte Street Study** – Ken stated that in June 2012 Council gave staff the authority to move forward with a comprehensive traffic engineering study on the Charlotte Street corridor. Possible Solutions, as follows:

1. Increase the sidewalk width and make sidewalks ADA compliant;
2. Close unused driveways;
3. Increase ROW width;
4. Consider underground utilities
5. Upgrading the two traffic signals at Chestnut and Hillside Streets
6. To define a bicycle path (trailblazer signing) between Edwin Place and downtown (using Chestnut Street and Central Avenue as possibilities.
7. The study is online to review.

● **Festival of Neighborhoods** – Bob announced the Festival of Neighborhood on Sunday 10/27/13 at UNCA-Sherrill Center of 30 different neighborhoods being represented. Till will be there on behalf of the MMTC; Julie and Bruce will be there on behalf of the Transit Committee; Stephen Jones and Mary Weber for the Greenway Committee.

Staff Updates

- Projects update – which is attached in the meeting packet for MMTC review.

Announcements: Don mentioned the Bike Summit in Carrboro in which Barb, Don, Mike Sule which had a good City representation and that the possibility of having the Bike Summit in Asheville in 2015/2016.

Agenda items for next meeting:

MMTC Schedule

Possible joint subcommittee for River Front

Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm